

Health care cost increases are on an unsustainable course, and we can no longer hide behind budget gimmicks and just pass along the tough fiscal decisions for future Congresses. The time has come to act.

□ 1015

#### PRESIDENT'S BUDGET TAKES US IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the \$3.6 trillion budget released by President Obama spends too much, taxes too much, borrows too much, and wastes too much.

Today, middle-class families and small businesses are making sacrifices when it comes to their own budget, yet Washington continues to spend trillions of taxpayer dollars on bailouts and other government programs. The spending in this budget is so massive that independent estimates suggest roughly 250,000 new Federal bureaucrats may be needed just to spend it all.

Rather than government cutting back, showing restraint, operating more efficiently on basic government responsibilities, the President proposes to create massive new programs, vastly expanding the scope and reach of the Federal Government. The energy taxes alone will cost every household over 3,000 additional dollars per year.

This budget will cost American jobs at a time when we can't afford it. The majority of those hit by the new tax increases are small businesses, the engines of job creation in our economy. This budget takes us in the wrong direction.

#### CONGRATULATING MAHONING VALLEY

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to congratulate the Mahoning Valley on a much-deserved honor. It recently ranked seventh in the Nation among mid-sized metropolitan areas for business attraction and expansion, according to Site Selection magazine. This is the first time the Valley has been chosen since the survey began 30 years ago.

Amidst all the bad economic news, this announcement was a bright spot that demonstrates all the hard work our businesses, workforce, and elected officials have put into making our community a great place to live and work and expand. The Mahoning Valley is ripe for economic development, and I am so pleased to see it receive such positive recognition. The magazine recognizes the local metropolitan area, which includes Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana Counties in Ohio.

Congratulations, Mahoning Valley. I am so proud to represent you, and look forward to continuing to help foster economic development in Ohio's Sixth District.

#### MEDIA'S IMMIGRATION BIAS PREVENTS AMERICANS FROM GETTING FACTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many of us remember the tragic case of Chandra Levy, a former Washington, D.C. intern who disappeared suddenly 8 years ago.

The man charged recently with murdering Ms. Levy entered the United States illegally, but you might not have known that by following the news. CBS, CNN, and the AP, among many other media outlets, failed to mention even once that the suspect entered the country illegally. Instead, the media used terms like "incarcerated felon" and "jailed attacker" to refer to the suspect in news reports. They neglected to point out that the suspect would not have been able to commit the alleged murder if he had not entered the country illegally in the first place.

This is an example of how the media's liberal bias on immigration issues prevents Americans from getting the facts. Whether it's immigration or any other issue, the media should report the facts, not slant the news.

#### BUSH BUDGET LEGACY—DEEP DEFICITS AND ECONOMIC DECLINE

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, in January, 2001, President Bush inherited a fiscal situation stronger than any in half a century. When President Clinton left office, the Federal budget was on track to retire all debt for the first time since 1835 and add \$3 trillion in net national savings. But Republican trickle-down economic policies changed all that—squandering the entire budget surplus and instead creating deficits in the trillions.

Republicans let budget rules lapse. They increased spending, they cut revenue, and enacted expensive tax cuts for those who needed them the least. On President Bush's watch, the debt held by the public grew from \$3.4 to \$6.3 trillion. The gross Federal debt doubled, and foreign-held debt more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, the healthy fiscal forecast the Bush administration inherited 8 years ago has now been replaced by record budget deficits as far as the eye can see and an economy in a tailspin. This is the unfortunate situation that President Bush left President Obama. It stands in stark contrast to what President Bush inherited in 2001 and

demonstrates the harmful effects of Republican economic policies.

#### REJECT THE FLAWED CAP-AND-TAX PROGRAM

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, while our Nation is suffering a severe economic recession, the Democrat majority is working behind closed doors to enact the largest carbon regulatory scheme in our Nation's history in the form of a cap-and-tax system. In fact, President Obama's budget includes a \$646 billion cap-and-trade energy tax that will be paid by every American who drives a car, turns on a light switch, or buys a product made in the United States. And that's every single American, regardless of income. No matter how you slice it, this issue is a huge tax. Government revenues are, of course, taxes on the American people.

This cap-and-tax scheme would cost the average American household in every State up to \$3,000 a year, and that's a very conservative estimate. This is really not a good way to stimulate our economy in economic bad times like we are in.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reject the flawed cap-and-tax program in the President's budget. The Democrat majority is borrowing too much money, taxing too much, and spending too much. When is it enough?

#### AMERICA WILL RECOVER AND EMERGE STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. According to a poll released this week, more Americans believe that the country is on the right track than before the election, and they believe that President Obama is handling his new job very well.

What I hear from folks back home in Florida is they have faith that the recovery plan is going to help them. Indeed, the moneys are being delivered to local communities to create jobs. In Tampa, we're going to construct an important link for economic development out of our port, moneys for our public schools, and students will arrive this month.

Energy efficiency. We are going to weatherize homes throughout the Tampa Bay area and the State of Florida.

On Monday, we announced a computer initiative to computerize medical records throughout the Tampa Bay region. Health care for Floridians will be provided because we are not going to let our neighbors fall through the crack during this economic downturn.

The budget priorities President Obama has sent us are right—health care reform, education, and investments in energy. We will recover, and